

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete paragraph [0008] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0008] Figure 2 contains genomic sequence information for three polymorphism (SEQ ID NOS 106-108, respectively, in order of appearance) that do not have available reference numbers or sequence identifiers (e.g., SNP reference numbers or contig accession numbers). The sequence provided represents genomic sequence immediately adjacent to the polymorphism of interest. Each sequence provided represents a genomic sequence immediately adjacent to the polymorphism of interest. The following nucleotide representations are used throughout Figure 2: “A” or “a” is adenosine, adenine, or adenylic acid; “C” or “c” is cytidine, cytosine, or cytidylic acid; “G” or “g” is guanosine, guanine, or guanylic acid; “T” or “t” is thymidine, thymine, or thymidylic acid; and “I” or “i” is inosine, hypoxanthine, or inosinic acid. Exons are indicated in italicized lower case type, introns are depicted in normal text lower case type, and polymorphic sites are depicted in bold upper case type. SNPs are designated by the following convention: “R” represents A or G, “M” represents A or C; “W” represents A or T; “Y” represents C or T; “S” represents C or G; “K” represents G or T; “V” represents A, C or G; “H” represents A, C, or T; “D” represents A, G, or T; “B” represents C, G, or T; and “N” represents A, G, C, or T.

Please delete paragraph [0120] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0120] When designing the siRNA molecules, the targeted region often is selected from a given DNA sequence beginning 50 to 100 nucleotides downstream of the start codon. See, e.g., Elbashir et al., Methods 26:199-213 (2002). Initially, 5’ or 3’ UTRs and regions nearby the start codon were avoided assuming that UTR-binding proteins and/or translation initiation complexes may interfere with binding of the siRNP or RISC endonuclease complex. Sometimes regions of the target 23 nucleotides in length conforming to the sequence motif AA(N19)TT (SEQ ID NO: 109)(N, any nucleotide), and regions with approximately 30% to 70% G/C-content (often about 50% G/C-content) often are selected. If no suitable sequences are found, the search often is extended using the motif NA(N21). The sequence of the sense siRNA sometimes corresponds to (N19) TT or N21 (position 3 to 23 of the 23-nt motif), respectively. In the latter case, the 3’ end of the sense siRNA often is

converted to TT. The rationale for this sequence conversion is to generate a symmetric duplex with respect to the sequence composition of the sense and antisense 3' overhangs. The antisense siRNA is synthesized as the complement to position 1 to 21 of the 23-nt motif. Because position 1 of the 23-nt motif is not recognized sequence-specifically by the antisense siRNA, the 3'-most nucleotide residue of the antisense siRNA can be chosen deliberately. However, the penultimate nucleotide of the antisense siRNA (complementary to position 2 of the 23-nt motif) often is complementary to the targeted sequence. For simplifying chemical synthesis, TT often is utilized. siRNAs corresponding to the target motif NAR(N17)YNN, where R is purine (A,G) and Y is pyrimidine (C,U), often are selected. Respective 21 nucleotide sense and antisense siRNAs often begin with a purine nucleotide and can also be expressed from pol III expression vectors without a change in targeting site. Expression of RNAs from pol III promoters often is efficient when the first transcribed nucleotide is a purine.

Please delete paragraph [0202] and replace it with the following paragraph:

For each polymorphism, SpectroDESIGNER™ software (Sequenom, Inc.) was used to generate a set of PCR primers and a MassEXTEND™ primer which where used to genotype the polymorphism. Other primer design software could be used or one of ordinary skill in the art could manually design primers based on his or her knowledge of the relevant factors and considerations in designing such primers. Table 3 shows PCR primers (SEQ ID NOS 1-70, respectively, in order of appearance) and Table 4 shows extension primers (SEQ ID NOS 71-105, respectively, in order of appearance) used for analyzing polymorphisms. The initial PCR amplification reaction was performed in a 5 µl total volume containing 1X PCR buffer with 1.5 mM MgCl₂ (Qiagen), 200 µM each of dATP, dGTP, dCTP, dTTP (Gibco-BRL), 2.5 ng of genomic DNA, 0.1 units of HotStar DNA polymerase (Qiagen), and 200 nM each of forward and reverse PCR primers specific for the polymorphic region of interest.